

extending at approximately a 45 degree angle. The examiner maintains that Dewes teaches the use of a steel rule die having a first and second end portion extending at a substantially 45 degree angle for the purpose of cutting the extremities of the collar-blank. The examiner reasons that it would therefore have been obvious when the invention was made to have modified Brayton as taught by Dewes to come up with the claimed the invention.

Applicant respectfully requests the examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 on Brayton and Dewes. It is submitted by applicant that Dewes, like Brayton does not show steel rules having first and second end portions extending at approximately a 45 degree angle and on opposite sides of a longitudinal axis. The teachings of Dewes when coupled with Brayton appear incapable of accomplishing the objects of the present invention as taught and claimed in this application.

Applicant has pointed out that the present invention enables one to produce a steel rule die construction which enables one with very little skill to construct a steel rule die configuration in a very short time and which enables a user of steel rule dies to essentially assemble steel rule dies from parts which are available off the shelf. This combination of references seems incapable of producing the steel rule die of the present invention. The steel rule construction of the present invention enables them to be arranged in end to end configuration so that the die disclosed can be quickly and conveniently constructed.

Referring specifically to Claim 1 it will be noted that it recites, among other things, that

the steel rules in the rule slots are arranged alternately with the first end portion of a given rule located adjacent the second end portion of a next rule adjacent the given rule.

This cannot be found in the combination of the Brayton and Dewes references.

Claims 2-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Brayton et. al. in view of Johnson (U.S. 5,676,032). Applicant would point out that the problem that is solved by the subject matter of these two claims does not exist in either of the two references used by the examiner. It is suggested therefore that the solution to the problem found in these two claims could not be obvious. All of the arguments for the allowance of these two claims given in the amendment filed May 23, 2001 are repeated and incorporated herein.

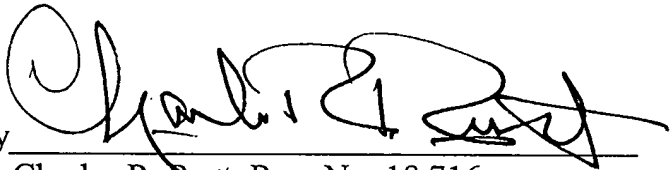
Claims 7-25 have been rejected as unpatentable over Johnson supra under 35 U.S.C. 103. In the previous office action these claims were rejected as anticipated by the Johnson reference. In this rejection the examiner points to this reference as showing a metal plate, a top board, a plurality of rule slots, a steel/metal member, a cutting edge , a bottom portion and first and second end portion extending at a 45 degree angle 9-10, and a first and second direction. The examiner states that Johnson does not show each steel rule having a first and second end portion extending at approximately a 45 degree angle. The lack of this structure contributes to the patentability of the claimed subject matter. The same arguments advanced in the amendment filed May 23,2001 for the allowance of these claims over the Johnson anticipation rejection are incorporated by reference herein

rather than repeating them so as not to unduly expand the record.

In conclusion it is urged that the rejection of the claims be reconsidered. It is submitted that the discussion above points out how the claims patentably distinguish over the rejections and references of record. Favorable action for the allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODLING, KROST AND RUST

By 

Charles R. Rust, Reg. No. 18,716
440-256-4150

Kenneth L. Mitchell, Reg. No. 36,873
440-256-4150